(a) whether names of certain institutions have been forwarded to Government for disinvestment;

(b) if so, the decision taken in respect of the institutions for the purpose of disinvestment till September, 2001; and

(c) the details of the institutions, out of them, which are not making any production, due to sickness and Government are forced to contribute for their maintenance annually?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Government has identified 13 public sector enterprises, with tight time frame, to be disinvested this year. These are: Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd. (BHPV), CMC Ltd., IBP Co. Ltd., Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL), India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), Instrumentation Control Valves Ltd. (ICVL), Jessop & Co. Ltd., Maruti Udyog Ltd., NEPA Ltd., HTL Ltd., Hindustant Zinc Ltd., Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. and Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL). Out of them, disinvestment transaction has already been completed in repoect of HTL Limited and CMC Limited. Action has also been finalised in respect of certain hotels under ITDC & Hotel Corporation of India.

(c) All of these companies are making production.

Prevention of Anthrax

*6. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Anthrax affected persons in Karnataka;

(b) the number of persons died due to Anthrax in the State;

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent/eradicate Anthrax in the State; and

(d) the financial and medical facilities provided, so far?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR):

(a) and (b) Natural anthrax is endemic in some parts of the country. The data available with National Institute of Communicable Diseases is as under:—

	1999		2000		2001	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Karnataka	8	5	Nil	Nil	4	2

(c) and (d) The steps taken by the State Government:

(i) The first meeting was convened by the Principal Health Secretary on 22.10.2001 for formulation of guidelines for prevention and control of Anthrax in the State under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Health Minister, Government of Karnataka.

(ii) Second meeting was held at the Directorate on 23.10.2001 on the advice of the Health Minister involving key departmental heads to discuss and suggest various control measures of Anthrax in the State.

(iii) All the district health officers of the State had been called on 30.10.2001 to the Directorate of Health Services, Government of Karnataka and were instructed to gear up the precautionary measures at the respective district level.

(iv) Rs. 1 crore worth of drugs were purchased to treat the Anthrax cases in the State by the Government of Karnataka.

(v) Few beds are reserved in all the hospitals of the State to admit and treat anthrax cases if reported.

(vi) To educate the health workers on anthrax booklets in Kannada and English in the forms of questionnaire were prepared and distributed.

(vii) 1.5 lakhs handbills containing brief information about Anthrax were also printed and distributed to all the District Health Officers for necessary action.

The Central Government has initiated the following actions:—

(i) In this context, a detailed list of biological agents used as weapons prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research along with signs and symptoms, likely methods of dissemination, incubation period, lethality and the availability of vaccines, anti-microbial therapy and

treatment has been circulated to all the States and Union Territories and Central Government hospitals in order to take precautionary steps such as earmarking of maximum number of beds for emergency contingency, stocking of vaccines/sera/drugs to the extent possible, setting up a special team of doctors for coordinated action and sensitise them on the impact of such weapons and treatment measures.

(ii) A national workshop was conducted at the NICD in September, 2001 for developing surveillance mechanism for pathogens with biological warfare potential including that of anthrax.

(iii) An issue of CD alert (monthly Newsletter of NICD) on bioterrorism with special reference to anthrax was circulated in October, 2001 to all the concerned health authorities in different States and Union Territories. The issue also covered the guidelines to be followed during biological war/terrorism and effective handling of suspicious envelops/package.

(iv) Guidelines for packaging, transportation of clinical specimens and processing protocol in laboratories were circulated to all the Medical Colleges in the country.

(v) A meeting on chemical and bio-terrorism was organised on 29th October, by the Department of Health which was participated by the Secretaries of Home and Health, Director of Health Services from various State / Union Territories. The representatives from the States informed the preparatory measures taken by them and assured availability of drugs in adequate quantity to tackle any situation.

(vi) National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Delhi has been identified as the nodal agency for investigations of any specimen suspected for anthrax.

(vii) A round the clock control room is functioning at NICD from 19th October, 2001 where suspected envelops/packages are being received for tests.

Use of infrastructure facilities by private F.M. Radio companies in metros

*7. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: